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GREEK ELEMENTS

In 600 BC ancient Greeks turned their attention to the nature and structure of substances that constituted it. Greek philosophers were interested in the essence of things and processes. The answers found by them launched the theory.

This theory was initiated by Thales of Miletus. He suggested that water was the primary substance from which all things were derived. When evaporating, water transforms into "air", and after evaporation "ground" is left. Heraclitus believed that the foundation of all was "fire", because everything on the earth moves and changes like fire. Then Empidokl of Ahrehenta, summing up the doctrine of his predecessors, admitted the existence of four main things: fire, air, water and land. According to him these substances are material and endowed with love and hatred. And it was Aristotle who created his theory of the elements. Each of them acquired the following qualities: fire – hot and dry, ground – dry and cold, water – cold and wet, air – hot and humid. He described each element with a set of properties.

In the times of Aristotle, astronomers imagined heaven as a sphere in the centre of which is a round Earth. Not falling and not rising, celestial bodies always rotated around the Earth. Aristotle thought this was because heaven consisted of the fifth general principle, that's why these principles can be considered elements.

LITERATURE

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